

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings of claims presented in the application.

#### **Claims 1 - 7 (canceled).**

**Claim 8 (currently amended):** An absorbent article comprising:

a main body including a liquid-pervious top sheet, a back sheet and an absorbent core sandwiched between said top sheet and said back sheet;

a skin-protective ingredient containing layer on one surface of said top sheet such that a skin-protective ingredient is released from said one surface of said top sheet and transferred to skin of a wearer to form an oily film on the skin of the wearer, said skin-protective ingredient containing layer being in a liquified state at 35°C or higher; and

a support layer substantially entirely and directly coating said skin-protective ingredient containing layer for retaining said skin-protective ingredient on said one surface of said top sheet and isolating said skin-protective ingredient containing layer from the skin of the wearer, said support layer being formed of polyethylene oxide having a molecular weight of from 700 to 1,000 and having a melting point from 35°C to 40°C.

wherein said skin-protective ingredient containing layer is formed of at least one compound selected from the group consisting of liquid polyisoprene, squalane, pristane, ozocerite, ceresine, microcrystalline wax, polyethylene powder, liquid paraffin, petroleum jelly and paraffin-~~and~~

